

4-3 Chapter Review

4-3a Summary

This chapter highlighted the beginnings of lifespan development, from genetic inheritance to conception to the delivery of a new life. This chapter began with a summary of the basic mechanisms of genetics including the human cell, DNA, inherited traits, and hereditary disorders. The debate around nature versus nurture was highlighted in reference to twin and adoption studies as well as the role of epigenetics. Inheritance of characteristics such as temperament, intelligence, and attitude were also discussed. Then the theoretical models of gene and environment interaction were summarized. The discussion of genes came to a close as it connected heredity with special issues in parenthood including genetic counseling, reproductive technologies, adoption, and abortion.

Next, the importance of the prenatal environment for optimal fetal health was emphasized. The stages of physical development throughout the trimesters were summarized, followed by a description of the possible effects of several teratogens on the developing fetus. Teratogenic substances and their effects range from alcohol and AIDS to maternal emotions and age. Next, the development of the fetal brain was highlighted.

The next section focused on practical issues in preparing for parenthood. The necessity of prenatal care as a preventive measure was discussed. Maternal options for birthing methods were summarized including natural, induced, and cesarean births. Complications in pregnancy were reviewed, including fetal monitoring/medicine, oxygen deprivation, preterm/post-term, low birth weight, and stillbirths/miscarriages.

Finally, the stages of labor and delivery were highlighted. The newborn's physical condition and adaptation to a new environment were discussed, including common neonatal procedures and tests to assess their developmental abilities. Newborn reflexes and states

were also highlighted. The final section discussed the serious nature of postpartum depression, including symptoms, warning signs, risk factors, protective factors, and treatment options.

Chapter 4: Genetics, Heredity, Environment, and Prenatal Development: 4-3 Chapter Review

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